

## **Caries Prevention (FY05-5011) – PROJECT WITHDRAWN**

*Note: this project was selected to receive HPPI FY05 funding, but the project was withdrawn due to IRB and staffing issues.*

### **The health problem or issue**

The concentration of effort in the US Army Dental Corps in the past few years has focused on restoring Class III carious lesions. This approach has not addressed the causes and prevention of dental disease. Targeting those at highest risk for dental disease will improve Soldier health and readiness at a cost savings.

### **Outcome**

Project was withdrawn.

### **Unique and/or innovative program aspects**

Although caries control protocols have been published, no study has evaluated and treated a deployable population and assessed the impact on caries control. Protocol will include: application of fluoride varnish in the dental clinic, nutrition counseling, oral hygiene instructions for home and the field, and prescription fluoride toothpaste for home care.

### **Demonstration of program effectiveness and/or impact**

The program will be effective if the population receiving the intensive intervention demonstrates a lower caries rate than a control group receiving routine care.

### **Impact on force readiness and deployability**

Caries history is the most reliable measurement of future caries risk. Simply providing restoration does not alter the disease environment and the need for future restorations. Aggressive preventive measures can improve oral health and readiness, use existing resources more efficiently, and decrease costs needed to ready troops for deployment.

### **Potential impact on the HPPI portfolio:**

Documentation of improved dental disease prevention through intensive intervention (fluoride varnish application, nutrition counseling, oral hygiene instruction, and prescription toothpaste)